TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FOURTH COUNCIL.

SECOND SESSION OF 1107.

Monday, the 8th August, 1932/24th Karkatakam, 1107.

Official Report.

The Council re-assembled in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at eleven thirty-one of the clock, the President presiding.

Questions and Answers.

Irrigation works in Mavelikara and Kartikapalli taluks.

239 **MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list showing :

(*a*) the irrigation works investigated by the Special Irrigation Officer for the Quilon Division in Mavelikara and Kartikapalli taluks ; and

(*b*) the several steps taken by the Department and the Government for the execution of the works, the carrying out of which was recommended by the Irrigation Officer and the dates on which those steps were taken ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : A statement* furnishing the information asked for is laid on the table.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : In column 3 the heading is "Remarks as to steps taken by the Department and the Government with date". I suppose that these remarks have been made just for answering this interpellation.

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : It is stated there:

> "No improvements need be done to these *todus* except removing the encroachments by the Revenue Department and setting back the boundaries."

Is that the report of the Irrigation Officer ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): There is no Irrigation Officer there. It is a misnomer when the member used the term "Irrigation Officer" in the interpellation. The Chief Engineer says that there is no special Irrigation Officer there.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : In answer to a former question, Government have stated that a Special Irrigation Officer has been appointed.

Vide Appendix I—pages i—vii.

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MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : This is what the Chief Engineer reports :

> "It may, in this connection, be pointed out that the Supervisor appointed is not a 'Special Irrigation Officer' whose suggestions are necessarily to be accepted, but a subordinate of the department acting under the instructions of the Division Officer to collect information and carrying out the necessary survey operations to enable the Division Officer to examine any proposals and to prepare plans and estimates if necessary."

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Is it his opinion that no improvements are necessary for these *todus*; or it the opinion of the Chief Engineer or of the Government ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Governmnent*) : It is the opinion of the Public Works Department.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) Is it the opinion of the Supervisor, who inspected the place, that has been given in the statement ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : The Chief Engineer would have based his report on the report of the subordinate officers of the department.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : That is only a presumption ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : Only a presumption ; I have not got specific information on that point.

MR. A S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Has any step been taken for removing the encroachments and for setting back the boundaries ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : I have no information. The matter was not brought to the notice of the Government.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Was it not the duty of the Chief Engineer to do so?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secr tary to Government*) : He might have written to the Dewan Peishkar concerned or the Land Revenue Commissioner about it.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Has the member any definite information about it ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : No.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : My question relates to the several steps taken by the department and the Government for the execution of the works. May I know what steps have been taken by the Public Works Department, with regard to this work ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : They have investigated this work and found that nothing has to be done by the department except the removal of encroachment by the Land Revenue Department.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : May I know whether the department has taken any step to see that the Land Revenue Department does that work ?

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MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Government have no information about it.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The second remarks in the remarks column says "No need as the *ayacut* does not suffer".

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The question, and therefore the answer too, deals with irrigation works which always refer to *ayacut* lands. The Chief Engineer reports that no *ayacut* land depends on this irrigation work.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) Does any land depend on this work?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I have no information.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*). Am I to take it that this *todu* is useless?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): It is not of any very great use as a source of irrigation.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): So, this *todu* does not benefit any land?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I do not know that.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know the distinction between *ayacut* and other lands?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): *Ayacut* lands are those which pay settlement tax.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Are there lands in the neighbourhood which do not pay any tax?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): There may be *tarisu* lands, unassessed lands, which do not pay any tax to the Government.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The fifth remark in the same page is "To be improved for navigation." May I know what steps have been taken in that direction?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Government have no information. The member's question relates only to irrigation works; and so, this information about the progress of the work of improving the *todu* for *navigation*, was not called for.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): My question relates to the irrigation works investigated by the Special Irrigation Officer for the Quilon Division in the Mavelikara and Kartikapalli taluks and the steps taken for the execution of the works. This is a work which the officer has investigated. So, I want to know the steps taken for the improvement of this *todu*.

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): It was found on investigation that it was not an *irrigation* work. So, information as to the steps taken for the improvement of this *todu*, was not called for.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether, when this matter, was brought to his notice, the Chief Engineer did anything in the matter?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): That information is not available.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): In regard to the first remark in the next page, may I know whether it is the policy of the Government that, unless the people agree to pay irrigation cess, the Government would not improve any irrigation work?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Under the Irrigation Regulation, the ryots are bound to pay irrigation cess.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is it mandatory under that Regulation?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): If that is made as a condition precedent for the execution of any irrigation work, the ryots must pay the cess.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The Irrigation Regulation contains only an enabling provision. It does not say that the Government must in all cases get an undertaking from the ryots that they would pay the cess. It is stated in the answer that, in view of the present financial stringency and the fact that the ryots have not undertaken to pay irrigation cess, the work need not be taken up until the people again move in the matter.

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Yes. Two reasons have been given for not taking up the work, one is financial stringency and the other is the unwillingness of the ryots to pay irrigation cess.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Am I to take it that, if the finacial stringency disappears, the unwillingness of the ryots to pay irrigation cess would not stand in the way?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): It has been stated in the answer that the work would not be taken up unless the people again move in the matter.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Why should the people again move in the matter?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): They should agree to pay the cess.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is it the general policy of the department to insist on such undertaking by the ryots?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I think so.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Have the Government considered the recommendation of the Minor Irrigation Committee to the effect that the cess should not be insistted on in all cases?

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MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): They have not.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : May I know whether, when they consider of the recommendations of the Irrigation Committee, the Government will reconsider the case of this work also?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): If the Government come to the conclusion that the payment of the cess by the ryots need not be insisted upon in all cases, then they may reconsider the case of this work also.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): In regard to item No. 29, Akambedi *todu* in Chennittala pakuthi, it is stated that no work need be done as the work required is only of raising the bed instead of clearing the silt. Is not the raising of the bed an irrigation work?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : I have no information about it now.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : In regard to item No. 34, it is stated that, as the people were not willing to pay cess, the matter has been ordered to be dropped. Were the people consulted with regard to their willingness?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : The Land Revenue Commissioner writes to say that the ryots concerned are not willing to pay the cess as proposed by the Chief Engineer.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : May I know how the opinion of the ryots was ascertained?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : I do not know how it was ascertained. It may be presumed that the Dewan Peishkar or the Tahsildar asked the ryots about it.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Am I to understand that notices were issued to all the ryots concerned?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : I do not know anything about that. I have only the statement of the Land Revenue Commissioner with me.

MR. A. S. DAMODAKAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is there not a procedure prescribed for ascertaining the views of the people?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : I have no information.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN ((*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Under the Irrigation Regulation, has not a notification to be published in the *Gazette* inviting objections from the ryots interested?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): That is perhaps one of the final stages before the work is actually commenced. That deals with the provisions in Section 10 of the Irrigation Regulation under which objections from the ryots concerned are invited, when

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[Mr. A. Kumara Pillai.]

everything else about the work has been settled. The statement now under reference is that the ryots are not willing to pay cess and not whether they have any objection to a work which has been decided upon.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): It is further stated in the answer that there was no *karivu* hithert on the land in question.

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): That shows that the land does not require further irrigation facilities.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Am I to understand that the opinion of the department is that the work is not necessary?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The fact that hitherto there has not been any *karivu* shows that the lands do not now suffer for want of irrigation facilities.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): But irrigation works are intended for drainage of water also?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I have no information whether this work would be useful for draining away water.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether any estimate was prepared for this work?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Yes; for Rs. 2,500.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is it because this amount is too big that Government have decided to drop it?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The reason has been given already. The work has been dropped on account of the unwillingness of the ryots concerned to pay the cess.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Am I to understand that, however small the amount involved may be, the Government will insist on the cess in *all* cases?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I can only say that, in this particular case, Government insist on payment by the ryots.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I suppose, that the financial stringency was not one of the reasons that weighed with the Government for dropping this work.

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): There is that reason also.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to reconsider the question after their consideration of the report of the Minor Irrigation Committee?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The question will be considered.

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MR A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : In regard to item No. 35, it is stated :

"It has been reported that the deepening of this canal is not very urgent and will not produce much effect on irrigation."

May I know who has made this report?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : The Chief Engineer.

In regard to item No. 52, it is stated :

"This *todu* does not require any improvement at present."

Is it because the *todu* is in a good condition?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : All available information has been placed before the House.

MR A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Have not the Government called for all information relevent to the question?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : Yes; the members have already been supplied with all the information available with Governnent.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) Only two works seem to have been investigated so for as the Kartikapalli taluk is concerned. Has the officer inspected all the irrigation works in the taluk ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : That information is not now available.

Need for a urinal at the Vaikam Munsiff's Court.

240. **MR. A. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Vaikam*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware that there is no urinal attached to the Vaikam Munsiff's Court ; and

(*b*) whether this matter will receive their urgent attention?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

MR. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vaikam*): യൂറിനൽ ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു ഈ സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയുന്നു; അതു് എന്നാണു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ എത്തിയതു്?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): So far as I can see, the first information was from the interpellation itself.

MR. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vaikam*) : ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി പറഞ്ഞതു കേട്ടില്ല.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): As I have already stated, so far as I am able to see from the papers before me, the first information about it appears to have been obtained from this interpellation itself.

MR. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vaikam*) : ഇതിന്റെ ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ബോദ്ധ്യം വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

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